

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 EUR-25 DLOS-07 COA-02 EB-11 COME-00 OMB-01

TRSE-00 CG-00 DOTE-00 DRC-01 /142 W

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R 281916Z JUN 74

FM AMEMBASSY LIMA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 757

INFO AMEMBASSY MEXICO

AMEMBASSY CARACAS

AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

AMEMBASSY QUITO

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PGOV, PE

SUBJECT: PRESIDENT VELASCO'S PRESS CONFERENCE

1. SUMMARY: ON JUNE 26, PRESIDENT VELASCO HELD ANOTHER OF HIS THREE-HOUR PRESS CONFERENCES. HE ANNOUNCED THAT HIS JULY 28 NATIONAL DAY ADDRESS WOULD REVEAL THE REVOLUTION'S SECRET BLUEPRINT OF 1968 AS WELL AS THE MILITARY GOVERNMENT'S "INTEGRAL SOLUTION" FOR THE PRESS. VELASCO ALSO REFERRED TO THE AEROPERU/BRANIFF PROBLEM (SEPTTEL) AND MADE AN UNDIPLOMATIC COMMENT ABOUT MEXICO. AS USUAL, THE OFFICIAL VERSION OF THE PRESS CONFERENCE VARIED FROM ACTUAL, TAPED VELASCO STATEMENTS. USING THE OFFICIAL VERSION, UNLESS OTHERWISE INDICATED, HIGHLIGHTS FOLLOW.

2. A MAJOR PORTION OF THE PRESS CONFERENCE DEALT WITH THE CLOSURE OF CARETAS MAGAZINE AND DEPORTATION ORDER AGAINST ITS EDITOR, ENRIQUE ZILERI. VELASCO SAID CARETAS "CALLED US PARANOIACS" AND INSULTED THE GOVERNMENT. "ZILERI DID THAT

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KNOWING WHAT HE WAS RISKING. WHY DID HE DO IT?" VELASCO

SUGGESTED THAT ZILERI WAS POSSIBLY PAID MONEY ("10 MILLION SOLES HAS BEEN RUMORED"). THE PRESIDENT INTIMATED THAT ZILERI MIGHT BE JAILED RATHER THAN DEPORTED WHEN FOUND. LA PRENSA REPORTS ACCURATELY THAT VELASCO STATED, "A REVOLUTION IS A REVOLUTION....THERE CANNOT BE COMPLETE LIBERTY....A REVOLUTION SWEEPS ALL BEFORE IT....IT IS LIKE THE MANTARO (RIVER) THAT SWEEPS AWAY EVERYTHING THAT BLOCKS IT."

3. ASKED IF THE GOVERNMENT WAS CONSIDERING NATIONALIZATION OF THE PRESS, VELASCO SAID NO. "WE HAVE SAID THAT WE ARE NOT COMMUNISTS. WHY SHOULD THE STATE TAKE OVER THE PRESS?" EARLIER VELASCO DECLARED THAT THERE WOULD BE "AN INTEGRAL SOLUTION TO THE PROBLEMS OF THE PRESS." VELASCO ALSO SAID THAT THE GOVERNMENT'S PRESS SOLUTION WOULD BE KNOWN ON JULY 28 BUT THE DATE DOES NOT APPEAR IN THE OFFICIAL VERSION, SUGGESTING THAT THE GOVERNMENT MAY NOT YET BE SURE HOW TO HANDLE THE PRESS. (ACCORDING TO ONE KNOWLEDGEABLE JOURNALIST, THE GOP WANTS TO TURN OVER THE NEWSPAPERS TO THE WORKERS.)

4. REFERRING TO A SECRET PLAN OF OCTOBER 3, 1968, WHICH OUTLINED THE GOVERNMENT'S FUTURE INTENTIONS, VELASCO REVEALED THAT IT WOULD BE MADE PUBLIC ON JULY 28. "PERUVIANS WILL BE PROUD TO BE PERUVIANS, AND WILL BETTER UNDERSTAND THE

REVOLUTION AND THAT IT HAS NOT GIVEN AND DOES NOT GIVE ALLEGIANCE TO FOREIGN THINKING." LA PRENSA ALSO REPORTS THAT VELASCO SAID THAT THERE WILL BE "SOME SHAKING" AND MANY "WILL MAKE THE SIGN OF THE CORSS" WHEN THEY FIND OUT WHAT REVOLUTIONARY STEPS REMAIN TO BE TAKEN.

5. VELASCO ACKNOWLEDGED THE SHORTAGE OF FOOD STAPLES, NOTING THAT THE GOVERNMENT HAD AMPLE DOLLARS AND WOULD IMPORT WHAT IS NEEDED. HE BLAMED AGRICULTURE MINISTRY TECHNICIANS FOR MAKING FAULTY ESTIMATES ABOUT PERU'S FOOD PRODUCTION.

6. DISCUSSING THE CARACAS LOS CONFERENCE AND THE AMERICAN AND SOVIET POSITIONS ON WHAT CONSTITUTES A MAJORITY, VELASCO SAID, "THERE IS NO RIGHT FOR TWO IDEOLOGICALLY OPPOSED COUNTRIES TO BE JOINED BY A COMMON IMPERIALIST INTEREST BECAUSE THEY HAVE BIG VOICES AND ADVANCED TECHNIQUES FOR LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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EXPLOITING THE OCEAN'S RESOURCES." EL COMERCIO REPORTS THAT VELASCO ALSO SAID THAT HE HAD ASKED THE FOREIGN MINISTRY TO PREPARE A DRAFT LAW ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE 200-MILE TERRITORIAL SEA CONCEPT. FOREIGN MINISTER DE LA FLOR NOTED THAT THE LAW IS READY, COMERCIO ADDS.

7. THE PRESIDENT PROMISED A NEW HOUSING LAW, NOTING THAT THE REVOLUTION WAS BARELY ENTERING THAT SECTOR. (THE FORMER

HOUSING MINISTER, ADMIRAL ARROSPIDE, WAS RECENTLY REPLACED BY ADMIRAL GALVEZ, WHO IS REPORTEDLY CLOSE TO VELASCO AND MORE "REVOLUTIONARY" THAN HIS PREDECESSOR.)

8. VELASCO REFUSED TO DISCUSS THE NAVY CRISIS OR GIVE HIS VERSION OF THE EVENTS. ACCORDING TO THE TAPED VERSION, VELASCO SAID THAT HE MIGHT BE ABLE TO TALK AFTER A FEW YEARS.

9. VELASCO ALSO PROMISED A NEW LAW FOR TEACHERS THAT WOULD GIVE THEM JOB SECURITY AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR GRADUATED PROMOTIONS, LIKE THE MILITARY. HE REGRETTED THAT THE REVOLUTION HAD NOT WON OVER THE TEACHERS BUT SAID THAT WHEN THEY SAW THE DRAFT LAW AND WERE GIVEN A CHANCE TO DISCUSS IT, THEY WOULD REALIZE THE REVOLUTION WAS A FRIEND.

10. IN ONE UNREPORTED PORTION, A MEXICAN JOURNALIST ASKED VELASCO WHAT HE THOUGHT OF PRESIDENT ECHEVERRIA'S ECONOMIC CHARTER. VELASCO SAID HE HAD NEVER HEARD OF IT. AFTER THE MEXICAN REPORTED EXPLAINED WHAT THE CHARTER IS, VELASCO SAID, UNDIPLOMATICALLY ENOUGH, THE PERUVIANS "DO NOT WRITE MUCH, WE ACT AND TALK LATER." NOTE: ECHEVERRIA WILL BE MAKING A STATE VISIT TO PERU JULY 14-16.

11. COMMENT: IN THIS PRESS CONFERENCE VELASCO HAS SET THE STAGE FOR JULY 28, WHEN HE HAS PROMISED TO REVEAL THE REVOLUTION'S FUTURE PLANS, POSSIBLY INCLUDING WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO THE INDEPENDENT PRESS.

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